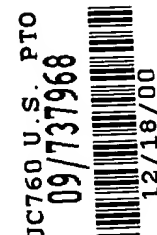


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PATENT  
1982-0161P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SUGIMOTO, Masahiko et al  
Appl. No.: NEW Group:  
Filed: December 18, 2000 Examiner:  
For: IMAGING DEVICE, AUTOMATIC FOCUSING  
METHOD AND RECORDING MEDIUM ON WHICH A  
PROGRAM IS RECORDED



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
(SUBMISSION CONCURRENT WITH THE  
FILING OF A NEW PATENT APPLICATION)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

December 18, 2000

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

- ☒ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- ☐ This application is a National Phase of a PCT application. Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-1449 are not enclosed because they were cited in the International Search Report and copies should be forwarded from the International Search Authority. If copies are needed, please contact the undersigned.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

a. ☐ **DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

The attached patents, publications, or other information in the English language do not require a statement of relevancy.

b. ☒ **DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

The relevancy of the Japanese language documents can be determined from a review of the English language abstract attached thereto. These documents are also cited on page 2 of the present specification.

c. ☐ **ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT**

An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(A)(3).

d. ☐ **OTHER**

The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

FEES

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of a new patent application; therefore, no fee is required.

If The Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Michael K. Mutter, #29,880

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(703) 205-8000

MKM/pf  
1982-0161P

Enclosures:

- ☒ Form PTO-1449(s)
- ☒ Documents
- ☐ Foreign Search Report
- ☐ Fee
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

(Rev. 04/19/2000)

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICATION NO.  
NEW

GROUP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Include Name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.